

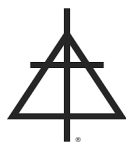


A Question Of Faith #4: What about suffering?

Psalm 88

October 26, 2014 Kemptville CRC

"O Lord, day and night I cry out before you..."



- Are people exaggerating when they say that the problem of pain makes them want to reject faith in God?

LAYER ONE – the Bible is honest about suffering

- Genesis 37-50
- Exodus 2
- Acts 12
- Acts 27/28

LAYER TWO – we don't have to pretend to be “OK”

- Psalm 88 (does it stand out as unique among the Psalms?)
- Revelation 6:10

*There's a measure of anxiety about suffering **even in heaven!***

LAYER THREE – why do bad things happen to good people?

- Sometimes we CAN answer “Why” (see Psalm 119:71)
- Sometimes we see God **use** evil for good ends (see Genesis 50:20)....
.... **without** fully understanding “why”

- Job's cry (Job 26-31)
- At the end Job is shown this about the reason for his suffering.....

- Job's smarty-pants friends are threatened by God (ch.42)

- in this world there will ALWAYS be weeds mixed with the wheat
(Matthew 13:24-30)

LAYER FOUR – God enters suffering through Jesus

- the pain is so deep and suffering so stuck that God needs to enter it personally to overpower it.

- He overpowers suffering on the cross, and gives us eternal hope:
CHRIST HAS DIED! CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!!

MY QUESTION

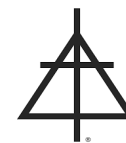


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